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PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
AND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

LETTER DATED 1 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE COORDINATOR OF THE GROUP OF REGISTERED PIONEER INVESTORS ON BEHALF OF FRANCE, JAPAN AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION

On behalf of France, Japan and the Russian Federation, I had the honour, by a letter dated 25 March 1993 (LOS/PCN/128), to request you to have the General Committee of the Preparatory Commission consider carrying out necessary adjustments concerning the system of obligations of the registered pioneer investors of France, Japan and the Russian Federation consistently with the principle of equality of treatment.

During the deliberations of the General Committee meeting on 30 March 1993, we were asked to make the above-mentioned request more explicit to the members of the Committee.

I wish, on behalf of France, Japan and the Russian Federation, to confirm hereunder the declaration I made in order to give an answer to this question, in our opinion, the understanding relating to the obligations of France, Japan and the Russian Federation should be adjusted to be identical with the understandings concerning the obligations of the pioneer investors which have been registered since 1988. We are also of the view that the principle of equality of treatment should be maintained between any potential applicant and the first pioneer investors.

Such an adjustment not only would be consistent with the principle of equality of treatment but would also contribute to facilitating the current negotiations on the universal acceptance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

France, Japan and the Russian Federation respectfully request you to circulate the present letter to the members of the General Committee at your earliest convenience, so that the General Committee may have adequate time at its disposal to consider the matter and to take the appropriate decision at its next meeting.

(Signed) Georges DUQUIN
Coordinator of the group
of registered pioneer investors